

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain for further consideration. No new matter has been added.

The objections and rejections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

2-3. Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 12-20 currently stand rejected for allegedly being obvious in view of the combined subject matter disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,940,398 to Stiegler et al. (hereinafter "Stiegler"), U.S. Patent 6,058,288 to Reed et al. (hereinafter "Reed"), U.S. Patent 5,808,660 to Sekine et al. (hereinafter "Sekine"), U.S. Patent 5,596,647 to Wakai et al. (hereinafter "Wakai"), U.S. Patent 5,121,205 to Ng et al. (hereinafter "Ng") and U.S. Patent 6,097,435 to Stanger et al. (hereinafter "Stanger").

Stiegler is not prior art to the claimed invention since both were commonly owned at the time of the claimed invention set forth in the present application.

Stiegler is assigned of record to Becker GmbH of Germany. The present application was assigned to XSYS Interactive Research GmbH at the time the present invention was filed and XSYS Interactive Research GmbH was a subsidiary of Becker GmbH. Therefore, since Stiegler is not prior art, it is respectfully submitted that the obviousness rejection be withdrawn.

4. Claim 4 currently stands rejected for allegedly being obvious in view of Stiegler, Reed, Sekine, Wakai, Ng, Stanger and U.S. Published Application 2001/0014207 to Kawamura (hereinafter "Kawamura").

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of this claim is now moot, since claim 4 which depends indirectly from claim 1, is patentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

5. Claim 11 currently stands rejected for allegedly being obvious in view of Stiegler, Reed, Sekine, Wakai, Ng, Stanger and U.S. Patent 5,898,695 to Fujii (hereinafter "Fujii").

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of this claim is also moot, since claim 11 which depends from claim 1, is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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